Claims 1-3 stand finally rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Doughty et al. (U.S. patent 5,866,984).

Doughty et al. disclose a mercury-free UV discharge source including a phosphor layer for converting UV radiation of the discharge source to visible light in a fluorescent lamp. See e.g., col. 1, lines 51, 52.

In contrast, Applicants' invention is a rare-gas low-pressure discharge lamp which includes a phosphor layer for converting UV radiation into UV radiation. The purpose of the phosphor is to tailor the UV radiation so that it is suitable for cosmetic and therapeutic applications, such as suntanning. See, for example, page 2, line 20 of Applicants' specification.

Accordingly, Doughty et al. do not anticipate claims 1-3, and it is urged that the rejection is in error and should be withdrawn.

Claims 4-9 stand finally rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Doughty et al., in that while the reference does not disclose any specific transmissivity for the discharge vessel, such would have been an obvious design consideration based on the desired light intensity.

It is well-settled that obviousness under Section 103 must be judged in light of the teachings of the prior art references, not on some unsubstantiated 'obvious design principles'.

Doughty et al. is primarily concerned with the production of visible light. Thus, it is not surprising that Doughty et al. provides no guidance regarding transmissivity of the discharge vessel in the UV region.

In contrast to the teachings of Doughty et al., Applicants' discharge vessel (12 in Fig. 1) is designed to transmit UV light, not visible light. Thus, the skilled artisan would not be motivated by the teachings of Doughty et al. to provide a vessel with the particular transmissivity taught and claimed by Applicants.

Accordingly, Doughty et al. do not render claims 4-9 unpatentable, and it is urged that the rejection is in error and should be withdrawn.

Claims 10-12 stand finally rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Doughty et al. in view of Traksel et al. (US patent 6,048,241).

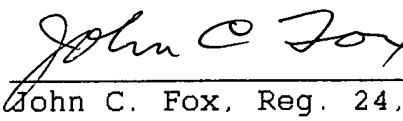
Traksel et al. relates to low-pressure mercury discharge lamp which is easy to manufacture. Pursuant to this object, the discharge vessel is shaped to allow accessibility of the mercury capsule to exterior radiation needed to open the capsule after it has been sealed into the discharge vessel, and prior to use of the lamp.

Since Traksel et al. is concerned with shape problems related to the manufacture of mercury-containing lamps, the skilled artisan would not be motivated by the teachings of this reference to alter the shape of the discharge vessel of a mercury-free lamp.

Accordingly, the combination of Doughty et al. and Traksel et al. does not render claims 10-12 unpatentable, and it is urged that the rejection is in error and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above arguments and amendments, it is felt that the application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



John C. Fox, Reg. 24,975
Consulting Patent Attorney
203-329-6584

MARKED-UP AMENDED CLAIM(S)

1. (Twice amended) A rare-gas low-pressure discharge lamp for generating ultraviolet light, in particular for cosmetic or therapeutic purposes, with a discharge vessel which is filled with a gas consisting of ~~a~~ at least one rare gas, the discharge vessel being at least partly transparent to UV light, the discharge vessel being at least partly coated with a phosphor which radiates UV light when excited by UV excitation radiation produced in the discharge vessel.